



SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1968

Medical Officer of Health: NOEL. F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector: F. E. CASEMORE, A.I.A.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

May, 1969.

To The Chairman and Members,
Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1968.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of the figures under consideration, the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the country as a whole.

There was no serious increase in notifiable diseases.

I am indebted to your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Casemore, for his co-operation and help during the year and for his assistance in preparing this report; and to Mrs. V. Donovan for her efficient services as my Clerk during the year.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy cooperation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. J. Casemore

Medical Officer of Health



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SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 8

- A. Area 42,000 acres
 Rateable value: 1st April, 1968£298,895
 Production of a penny rate: 1968/69£ 1,170

VITAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's Estimate)10.290
 Natural growth of population (births over deaths) 27

LIVE BIRTHS

COMPARATIVE RATES

	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>SHAFTESBURY</u> <u>R.D.C.</u>	<u>ENGLAND</u> <u>& WALES</u>
Total	76	70		
Illegitimate	7	3		
		)Rate per		
		)1,000 res-		
		)ident pop-		
		)lation=14.2	16.3	16.9

STILL-BIRTHS

Total. Both	1	1		
Legitimate		)Rate per		
		)1,000 live		
		)& still-		
		)births=14.0	14.0	14.0

DEATHS

Total	66	53		
		)Rate per		
		)1,000 res-		
		)ident pop-		
		)lation=11.6	10.8	11.9

DEATHS IN INFANTS

Under 1 year		1		
Under 4 weeks	nil	)Infantile		
Under 1 week	nil	)death rate		
		)per 1,000		
		)live births		
		)= 7.0	7.0	18.0
Perinatal mortality		14.0	14.0	25.0

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes	nil	nil	nil	nil
" " Tuberculosis	nil	1	nil	nil
" " Cancer of Lungs	5	4	2	5
" " Other Cancer	20	8	20	20
" " Coronary Disease	27	21	20	17
" " (Angina)				
" " Other Heart or				
" " Vascular Diseases	35	44	56	47
" " Influenza	2	nil	1	nil
" " Pneumonia	2	8	10	5
" " Motor Vehicle	1	1	2	5
" " Accidents				
" " All other	3	5	3	4
" " Accidents				
" " Suicide	1	1	2	nil
" " Leukaemia and	nil	nil	nil	1
" " Aleukaemia				

B. NATURE OF THE DISTRICT

The district is mainly rural in character with an urbanised area in Gillingham.

The principal industries of the area are agricultural with associated activities, which include two bacon factories and one slaughterhouse, a cheese factory and a milk processing factory. In addition, there are factories dealing in synthetic glue, chemicals and glove making and instrument engineering.

Further efforts were made during the year to develop an industrial site so as to attract new industry into Gillingham.

C. HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT
which are not the responsibility of the District Council.

THE HOSPITAL SERVICE

From the northern part of the district, patients attend the Westminster Memorial Hospital and the Salisbury Hospitals in the Salisbury Group Management Committee of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board. From the more southern part of the district, patients attend the Blandford Hospital and the Bournemouth and Poole Hospitals of the Bournemouth and East Dorset Group Hospital Management Committee of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

The laboratories at Dorchester and Salisbury of the Public Health Laboratory Service cover your district. The service has again proved, in every way, to be co-operative and efficient.

GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, OPHTHALMIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Council.

COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

The personal preventative health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, immunization and vaccination, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

DOMESTIC HOME HELP SERVICE

Particular mention must be made regarding the domestic home help service which is of such incalculable benefit to the needy old people, that it is difficult to recall how these people managed before this service was instituted.

But for this service, on which increasing demands are being made, many old people would be unable to survive in their own homes.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Acknowledgment must be made of the excellent work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society with regard to the welfare of aged persons, the handicapped and disabled and the chiropody service for old people.

A meals on wheels service for old people is provided by the W.R.V.S. At the end of the year nineteen persons had availed themselves of this service in the district.

D ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health - NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S.,
(Part time) L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is one half day per week.

Dr. G. B. Hopkins of the Blandford and Wimborne districts acts as his deputy during his absence, on a reciprocal honorary basis.

Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector - F. E. Casemore, A.I.A.S.,
M.R.S.H.

Assistant Surveyor & Additional Public Health Inspector - B. R. Marchant, M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector - M. Capon, M.A.P.H.I.
(Appointed July 1968)

Public Health Inspector - R. A. Leach, M.A.P.H.I.,
(engaged full time on meat inspection.)

Authorised Meat Inspectors - D. Sharpe
R. A. Watson
A. Rockett (appointed March, 1968)

Clerical Staff - 2 part-time

With the appointment of an additional Authorised Meat Inspector in March and an additional Public Health Inspector in July, public health routine inspections became much more satisfactory than in the recent past.

So long as meat inspection (a statutory duty which cannot be avoided (or even 'shelved')) continues to make increasing demands on the public health inspectorate, full public health supervision of the district cannot be achieved.

WATER SUPPLY

Public Supplies

The statutory undertaking in the district is the West Wilts Water Board. There has been close co-operation between the Board's Officers and your Public Health Officers, copies of reports on samples of water taken by the Board are forwarded to my office and, reciprocally, copies of samples taken on your behalf are sent to the Board.

The supplies remained, throughout the year, adequate to meet the demand and the purity of the supplies has remained satisfactory.

Two hundred and three samples of water were taken by the Board during the year.

Private Supplies

One or two small supplies of doubtful quality supplying few premises, still remain. Although Fontmell Magna private supply to thirteen dwellings is chlorinated, the bacteriological condition of this water is not satisfactory, periodically giving unsatisfactory results.

Eight samples from this supply were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Although preparatory work continued in respect of schemes for Bourton, Motcombe, Fontmell Magna, none of these schemes had been commenced by the end of the year.

Progress was made during the year on a sewerage improvement scheme for Iwerne Minster; Ministry approval was received during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse and Salvage

A weekly curb side collection in Gillingham and a twice monthly collection in the remaining parishes was in operation.

The old tip at Bleet ceased to be used during the year and the new tip at Boweridge Hill came into service.

One hundred and two tons of salvage were collected during the year, bringing in revenue of £464 compared with £397 during the preceding year.

Cesspool Emptying

The cesspool emptying service (through the agency of a contractor) is carried out in non-sewered parts of the district.

During the year, five hundred and eleven cesspools or septic tanks were emptied, compared with five hundred and thirty five during the preceding year.

Roadside Sanitation

The sanitary conditions of laybys is generally satisfactory. Litter receptacles are provided by the County Council, the litter being collected by the District Council with domestic refuse.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

Until adequate parish sewerage schemes can be provided, a gross amount of pollution of streams and ditches in the district cannot be avoided. This type of pollution is present in most parishes.

Complaints continued to be received with regard to nuisances at Kington Magna, East Stour, Fontmell Magna and Milton-on-Stour. The position at Milton-on-Stour continued to be particularly bad.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1964

One part-time Inspector is appointed under the Act. Seventy-three premises are registered under the Act. Fifty-one premises were inspected during the year. Seventy-four inspections were carried out.

THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No formal action was called for or taken during the year in respect to any offences against the Act. Consultations were carried out with the District Alkali Inspector with regard to a boiler chimney proposed to be erected in Gillingham.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures not given)

	No. of Premises on Reg.	Inspections	Written Notice.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	4	4	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	39	16	4
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
	43	20	5

<u>Defects</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector</u>
Unsuitable or defective sanitary convenience	4	4	2
No. of Outworkers (Wearing Apparel)	- 81		

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT, 1956

No premises in your district are registered under the Act.

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCE

Complaints continued to be received in the East Orchard district with regard to obnoxious smells from local Digester Plant.

The nuisance from such a source is intermittent and suitable evidence as to the nuisance is not always available to justify legal proceedings. The nuisance when it occurs is, however, very real.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

One house was treated for flea infestation and one for cockroach infestation.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one public bath in the district, being the Gillingham bath. The efficiency of the chlorination plant and the quality of the water was regularly checked and proved to be satisfactory.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

Seven sites are licensed under the Caravan Sites, Control and Development Act, 1960, for temporary use; five being temporary individual sites, one a permanent site, and one a seasonal site. Eight inspections were carried out.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The only public conveniences provided by the Council are at Town Bridge, Gillingham. Washing facilities (with cold water only) are provided.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The duties of the Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in the North Dorset area and the Beaminster Rural District.

170 non-agricultural premises and 50 agricultural premises treated.

Sewers at Gillingham baited and found to be free from infestation.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

There were no complaints received under this Act during the year.

RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the district are registered or licensed under this Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

During the year there was one shop in the district licensed for the keeping and sale of pet animals under the above-mentioned Act. One inspection was carried out during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Three premises in the district are registered under the Act, in respect of which three inspections were carried out.

Under the Act, with certain limited exceptions, any person who carries on a business of providing accommodation for other people's animals, even in a private house, must be registered under this Act, by the District Council.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

Inspections have continued to be carried out and conditions in general have been found to be satisfactory.

Difficulties experienced in former years from the effluent from the septic tank at Pontmell Magna school were overcome and nuisance abated.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47

No action had to be taken during the year, under the above-mentioned Act, for the compulsory removal of any person to hospital or institution for care and attention.

Persons of this category are not unknown. One is, however, most reluctant to initiate action under this Act, unless the welfare of other persons is seriously interfered with. It is rarely in the true interests of the persons themselves.

HOUSING

No. of houses in the district 3,671

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	70
No. of inspections made	132
No. of informal notices served	52
No. of informal notices complied with	30
No. of statutory notices served	nil
No. of statutory notices complied with	nil

No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958 nil

Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses:

Demolition Orders made nil

Undertakings accepted for:

Closure	nil
Reconditioning	nil
Other action	nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year .. nil

No action was taken under Section 13 of the Housing Act, 1964, to ascertain which houses should be made the subject of Compulsory Improvement Orders.

Overcrowding

No cases of 'statutory' overcrowding were found during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants

Twenty six applications were received during the year in respect of "standard" grants and three in respect of "discretionary" grants, compared with twenty eight and four respectively during the preceding year.

With only £50 difference between the upper limit of the Standard Grant and the £400 of the Discretionary Grant, there is insufficient incentive to persuade house owners to bring their property up to the Discretionary Grant standard.

It would appear that a number of potential applicants for grant are awaiting implementation of the new Bill which, it is understood, will quite considerably increase the maximum amount of grant with some contribution towards the cost of certain repairs.

New Houses

No new houses were provided by the Council during the year. Ninety were built by private enterprise.

Thirty seven families were housed during the year by the Council, compared with sixty one during the preceding year.

At the end of the year, there were two hundred and eighteen applicants on the housing list (of which one hundred and fifty seven were resident in the district) compared with one hundred and eighty four at the beginning of the year.

Improvement of Older Council Houses

Action was continued during the year in the 'improvement' of the older Council houses lacking essential amenities.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

No. of "Dairies" in the district subject to registration 6

No. of "Distributors" subject to registration 7

Samples

To avoid duplication of effort, routine milk sampling in the district is only undertaken by the County Council, the results being notified to the Public Health Department. A total of twenty two samples was taken.

Five milk samples were taken by your officers.

Brucellosis

Regular sampling of milk supplies from producer retailers of un-heat treated milk is carried out by the County Council and the results reported to me.

In two cases brucellosis was identified; informal action resulted in the milk supplies concerned being pasteurised.

Other Infections

Where the Divisional Veterinary Officer becomes aware of other animal infection transferable to man, the information is passed on to me so that investigations can be carried out toward prevention of the infection of a milk supply or the farmer's or farm workers' families.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Reg. 20

No formal action was called for during the year.

2. Other Food Premises

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of:-

Ice Cream	46
Sausages and Prepared Meats	11
Fish and Chips	2

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test nil

The number of Food Premises in the area, by type of business subject to Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960:

Trade	No. of Premises	No of Premises fitted to comply with Reg.16	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg.19
Hotels	5	5	5	5
Cafes	5	5	5	5
Public Houses	15	15	15	15
Clubs	5	5	5	5
Church Halls	4	2	2	2
Canteens - schools	4	4	4	4
Confectioners	12	12	10	10
Meat and Fish	9	9	9	9
Grocers	17	14	17	16
Mixed Stores	23	22	23	22
Boarding Schools	4	4	4	4
Food Factories	11	11	11	11
Others	6	6	6	6
	120	114	116	114

No. of such premises inspected during the year 100
No. of inspections carried out 147
During the preceding year the figures were 44 and 46.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1947-1952

There is no ice cream manufacturer registered in the district.

BYELAWS IN RESPECT OF HANDLING AND WRAPPING FOOD ETC.

Such byelaws are not operative within the district.

LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963

No. of egg pasteurisation plants in the district ... nil
No. of samples of liquid egg submitted for Alpha-Amylase test nil

POULTRY INSPECTION

No. of poultry processing premises within the district nil
No. of visits to these premises nil
Total no. of birds processed during the year nil
Types of birds processed - e.g. turkeys, ducks, hens, broilers, capons, etc. nil
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption nil
Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption nil

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are three slaughterhouses in the District, two being in connection with bacon factories and one being a general slaughterhouse.

Difficulties were again experienced in getting a hundred per cent meat inspection carried out, but with the assistance of a local veterinary surgeon and using the ^{additional} Health Inspector for part of his time, this was accomplished.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total no. of inspections (under all headings) 768
Total no. of informal notices served 157
Total no. of informal notices complied with 102
Total no. of statutory notices served 5
Total no. of statutory notices complied with 2
No. of prosecutions nil

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned. 1968.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	145	1904	9255	2535	95981
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	77	188	51	670
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	50	1243	96	363	13780
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	33.7	64.1	3.7	16.4	10.5
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	3459
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	3.6
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	2	-	-	1
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than Tuberculosis:

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	
Whooping cough	-	
Measles	17	
Pneumonia	-	
Meningitis	-	

<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
New cases notified	1	-

Food Poisoning

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health

